

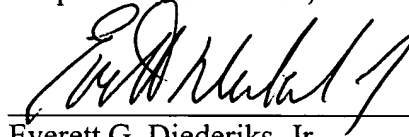
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The claims in this application all stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,640,994 by Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,359,157 by Levasseur. The Chen patent issued on November 4, 2003 based on an application filed on February 19, 2002. The Applicant respectfully submits that, even though the Chen reference does not disclose the patented invention, in order to clearly obviate the rejection presented by the Examiner, enclosed herewith is an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 which swears behind the filing date of the Chen reference.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that all the rejections presented in the first Office Action have been overcome such that allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding the allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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